

Sponsor/Title: National Science Foundation (NSF) -- NSF 26-505: National Quantum and Nanotechnology Infrastructure (NQNI)

External Link:

<https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/nqni-national-quantum-nanotechnology-infrastructure/nsf26-505/solicitation>

Funding Opportunity Number: NSF 26-505

Submission Limitation per Institution: One (1)

Notre Dame Limited Submissions Listing:

<https://research.nd.edu/our-services/funding-opportunities/faculty/limited-submissions-program/>

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-02-24

Sponsor Letter of Intent Deadline (*required*): 2026-03-16

Sponsor Full Proposal Deadline: 2026-05-14

Overall Approach: The NSF National Quantum and Nanotechnology Infrastructure (NQNI) program will support open-access user facilities called NQNI Sites. NQNI Sites will be distributed across the U.S. to create a shared national resource for the research and business communities. Each Site will serve regional communities, with a focus on community members that lack access to advanced micro- and nano-fabrication and characterization equipment, training, and expertise.

The Sites should aim to provide access to users from local and regional institutions, industry, and government who are not themselves formally part of the NQNI Site ("external users"). Potential external users could be from other academic institutions as well as startups, small and large businesses, and government. To advance the open-access mission, external academic user fees at Sites must be identical to internal academic fees. Similarly, Sites should explore ways to reduce barriers to entry for industrial and small business/startup users. Submitting teams are asked to describe plans to reach untapped populations and bring benefits to a wide range of communities.

NQNI awards will primarily support personnel to run activities to recruit and train new external users to access tools and expertise at Sites. While access to computational resources and remote use of tools can be incorporated, Sites should prioritize hands-on experiences for external users. Additionally, education, training, workforce development, and outreach efforts are expected. Funds may be used for activities related to the creation of educational materials, student researchers, postdoc training exchanges, and such.

Proposals should advance one or more of the following measures of success:

- Publications from research
- Data sets established or expanded
- New technologies or techniques established
- Undergraduate and graduate students trained in a specific critical area
- Research facility usage

Funding from this program may not be used for construction, acquisition, maintenance, or repair of physical infrastructure. Funding is available through NSF programs such as Major Research Instrumentation, Mid-scale Research Infrastructure-1, and Mid-scale Research Infrastructure-2. More information is available at the NSF Research Infrastructure Office website.

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/cSrwrPQAJAbr3Yjv9> by the internal deadline:

- Title: Title must begin with "NQNI:".
- Principal Investigator: Name, departmental and organizational affiliation, and expertise.
- A maximum of 4 Other Senior Project Personnel are permitted.
- A maximum of 4 Other Participating Organizations are permitted.
- A list of Senior/Key Personnel (Principal Investigator, co-PI(s), and Faculty Associate(s) or equivalent), providing names, affiliations, and area(s) of expertise for all personnel.
- Project Summary: Three (3) pages (maximum) addressing the following: Merit Review Principles and Criteria as outlined in the NOFO.
 - Merit Review Principles and Criteria – All NSF proposals are evaluated through use of the two National Science Board-approved merit review criteria:
 - *Intellectual Merit*, which encompasses the potential to advance knowledge.
 - *Broader Impacts*, which encompass the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.
 - Additional Solicitation Specific Review Criteria: In responding to the above NSF review criteria, reviewers will be asked to place emphasis on the following additional criteria for individual Site proposals:
 - Quality of programs for outreach, knowledge dissemination, educational, research, and workforce development experiences, including expanding the breadth of the workforce.
 - Strength of internal research programs and faculty, and site management structure, plans, and ability to ensure high-quality external user services.
 - Breadth and impact of regional coverage, integration of partnership structure, and sufficient budget for funded partners to serve a large external user community.
 - If applicable, quality of plans for inclusion of social, ethical, economic, and environmental aspects of quantum information and nanotechnologies and/or computational and modeling/simulation capabilities.

Questions: Contact Notre Dame Research Limited Submissions at limited@nd.edu.

Unless otherwise noted, all internal applications are due by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the Internal Expression of Interest Deadline.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.